

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Burrel Prison 2. Political Prisoners	DATE DISTR.	5 December 1955
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1. The Burrel prison holds approximately 400 inmates. The Director is a certain Captain Metan; the Managing Director is a Sigurimi official named Jorgo Lace from Gjinokaster. The prison is guarded by fifty men.
2. Most inmates in the Burrel prison are political prisoners. Among the 400 inmates there are 100 Zogists (supporters of King Zog), 150 followers of Balli Kombetar and 150 nationalists including some followers of Gjon Markagjoni, Mustafa Kruja and Ismail Verlaci. Members of these political groupings help each other as best they can by sharing what little food they receive and by keeping alive their political interests through surreptitious discussions. The leading Zogists are Enver Hasa, Ethem Cara and Dul Hoxha. The leading Ballists are Kudret Kokoshi, Abdullah Rahmi and Koco Tasi.
3. Although there are some differences of opinion among the Zogists and Ballists, they all support the National Committee for a Free Albania (NCFA) despite the discouraging news they sometimes receive on the disagreements among the various factions in the Committee.
4. The prisoners favor a coalition government for Albania if the present communist regime is deposed. Opinion is divided over the return of King Zog; however, should the issue be put to a vote in a Western supervised referendum, the King would receive 70% of the vote.

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5. Since 1949, the Sigurimi officials at Burrel have discontinued maltreating the prisoners. In fact, conditions have steadily improved. Although no breakfast is served, daily food for the prisoners consists of a soup for lunch and dinner in the evening includes 600 grams of bread. Families and friends of the prisoners are allowed to bring food to supplement the prison rations.
6. The prison building is divided as follows: 2 rooms, 7 x 6 meters, 8 rooms 5 x 3½ meters, and 28 three-man cells, 2 x 2½ meters. In addition, there are 3 isolation cells.

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